

Oral Questions

Let me say to the Hon. Member that, while I have only been in the portfolio for five or six months, my predecessor, now the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, did such a fantastic job that the Hon. Member ought to be really jealous of it. Last year Canada achieved a record in relation to exports. I think the Hon. Member knows enough to know that exports mean jobs in Canada. We are going to continue our record performance in exports. That is how we are creating jobs.

I would also point out to the Hon. Member that it is strange arithmetic that says that if we import fewer cars in the first six months this year than last year, that does not mean more jobs somewhere in the North American car market.

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● (1440)

THE ECONOMY**QUERY RESPECTING POLICY ON STIMULATION**

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. It concerns jobs. Last November the Prime Minister favoured stimulating the Canadian economy through public investment. Now the Minister of Finance is cooling to that position. Last night he wine and dined himself while the CLC convention of workers got no answers from his Parliamentary Secretary.

Some Hon. Members: Sit down.

Mr. Waddell: Does this Minister of Finance agree that the economy should be stimulated through public investment, or does he intend to rely on the private sector to stimulate the economy and get Canada growing again?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, as far as wine and dining are concerned, I want to inform my hon. friend I had dinner last night in the Parliamentary Restaurant with another Member of Parliament and his wife whose birthday it was. Those of us who eat in the Parliamentary Restaurant know there is no great wine and dining there.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Clark: Attacking more public servants.

Mr. Lalonde: As far as the allegation of the Hon. Member is concerned, I want to assure him that he should be very cautious about relying on speculation in the press. I said that I will not comment on press speculation about the budget, and I will not comment on the kind of speculation in which the Hon. Member is engaging. There is no basis in fact that I know of for that kind of statement he has just made.

Mr. Waddell: I might remind the Minister of Finance that, while he was dining here, one delegate to the CLC said that his union which operates a clinic in Vancouver was putting

bandages on the working casualties but, in spite of that, they were still bleeding. The workers are suffering, Madam Speaker.

REQUEST THAT MINISTER DIVULGE POLICY

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, let me ask the Minister of Finance what is his Government's position? Does the Minister of Finance agree with what the Prime Minister said? Is he going to use public investment to stimulate the economy, or will he rely on private investment? All the Minister has to do is answer the question. If he is going to stimulate the economy, when is he going to do it? When will we see a budget? The Minister is fiddling while the Canadian worker is burning.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Epp: There is an original line.

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, knowing the eating habits of my hon. friend, I would like to know where he dined last night and what he ate.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Lalonde: We will leave that to speculation for the time being.

My hon. friend invites me to commit a budget leak. At the present time I am not ready to do that even on the floor of the House of Commons. There will be a budget, and I invite my hon. friend to wait for it. I hope in the meantime we will proceed speedily with the adoption of the Bills that are before the House, particularly the Income Tax Act amendments that have been considered for quite a while now and will be going to Committee of the Whole soon. I hope to present a budget to the House at an appropriate time once consideration of these Bills has been concluded.

PROPOSED VANCOUVER PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Madam Speaker, this is a serious matter and the workers want some answers. Let me give a concrete example of a workable and an affordable program to the Minister of Finance.

The Mayor of Vancouver suggested this morning that the City of Vancouver was prepared to go with a \$236 million public works program to computerize traffic signals, to build bridges, to build sewers, streets and so on. The City will pay \$136 million, about which a plebiscite was taken. Will the Minister of Finance commit himself right now to this form of public investment in the amount of \$100 million for the City of Vancouver in this instance, and in general for the Federation of Municipalities across the country?

Hon. Marc Lalonde (Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the Mayor of Vancouver has some very good ideas. Many other mayors across the country have very good ideas for their